

10 MEN GAINED TOWN'S ONLY HOLIDAY POINTS

An amazing second-half display, after being reduced to ten men through an injury to Aherne, enabled the Town to collect their only points of the holidays against Doncaster Rovers on Monday.

It seemed as if misfortune inspired the Town to even greater efforts, for their four-forward attack scored three times and a gallant, never-say-die defence kept out the Rovers until the game was safely won.

This tremendous victory won against all the odds, kept the Town's chance of escaping relegation alive, for defeat in this match, to follow the failures at Doncaster and Leicester on Friday and Saturday, would have been a sad turn indeed.

Only sheer bad luck prevented them from holding a substantial lead at the interval, for they buckled down to this most serious task in workmanlike style and before a quarter of an hour had gone, both Stobbart and Davie had narrowly missed scoring with shots that struck the woodwork.

Then, with the tide going in the Town's favour and goals looking only a question of time, Aherne pulled a muscle shortly before half-time. He carried on for a short spell and then had to have attention from the trainer.

After that, he switched places with Pemberton, who was making his home League debut in the unfamiliar role of outside left.

The change took him to left back, the position in which he began his career and he played a courageous and most effective part in the Town's second half struggle.

At half-time, it was learned that Aherne's injury was so serious that he would not be able to resume and there was dismay among the crowd of 14,486 when they saw that only 10 Town players had taken the field.

They need not have worried, for within three minutes the Town were ahead being given the lead from the penalty spot by DAVIE, who beat Hardwick after Graham had pulled down Taylor.

The second half was only 12 minutes old when the Town increased their lead. Taylor came through to make an opening for MOORE who hit the ball first time as Bycroft went in to tackle and flashed the ball past Hardwick.

After that, the Town saw to it that their lead was never in dire danger of being whittled away, and STOBART capped a fine display five minutes from the end by diving to head through with tremendous force a fast centre by Moore.

KNOCKED OUT IN SCORING

Stobart was knocked out in doing so, and there was a hold-up before he recovered. He received a great reception from the crowd as he ran back for the re-start.

Two minutes later, Doncaster got a consolation goal, though it would not be much consolation to them after being almost run off their feet by 10 men.

TINDILL was the scorer with a low, close-range shot during a scramble following a corner.

This was a superlative performance by the Town and there was not a player who did not make the fullest contribution to it.

Watkins and Shanks were always in the thick of it, tackling hard, recovering quickly when beaten, and repeatedly getting the ball out of the danger zone.

In the middle, Owen was equally determined and kept very cool under pressure. The wanderings of Harrison did not worry him a lot and he closed the path down the middle effectively.

Just the man for a situation of this kind is Cooke, who was seldom in any sort of trouble, marked his wing man closely and kicked a good length throughout.

Pemberton did much that was useful during his spell on the wing, but it was at left-back that he really shone with a great-hearted display. All of which added up to the fact that Streten did not have half as much to do as he probably expected to come his way when he started the second half. What there was,

though, he coped with confidently.

In the first half, the forwards moved more quickly and were far more incisive than they have been in recent matches, and it was amazing that the depleted line could cause so much damage in the second half.

Dayle, despite an injury, never spared himself for an instant and was constantly playing a leading part in the Town's raids and getting back, too, when they broke down.

So was Taylor, who stood out for the quality of his distribution of the ball, particularly with passes inside the full-back to Stobbart, who was the most dangerous winger on view and constantly harassed the Rovers' defence.

Moore had a good match, too, linking up with his colleagues effectively and giving Bycroft a very trying afternoon.